

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

March 2014 – Week 3

Air Date: March 16 – March 22 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE DAY A GENERATION DIED

MARCH 1937 AND A TEXAS DISASTER SHOCKS THE WORLD.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MARCH 18, 1937. NEW LONDON. IN THE HEART OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD, NEW LONDON IS BOOMING.

IN THE SCHOOL, THE SHOP TEACHER PLUGS IN THE BELT SANDER AND... A MASSIVE EXPLOSION BLOWS THE SCHOOL APART, LIFTING THE ROOF INTO THE AIR.

PARENTS AND WORKERS RUSH TO PULL KIDS FROM THE WRECKAGE. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SENDS THE RED CROSS, THE GOVERNOR SENDS TEXAS RANGERS.

THE BLAST KILLS 290 TEXANS, MOST OF THEM CHILDREN. IT'S THE WORST SCHOOL DISASTER IN U.S. HISTORY.

AN INQUIRY FINDS NATURAL GAS LEAKED UNDETECTED INTO THE SCHOOL BASEMENT FOR DAYS.

BECAUSE OF NEW LONDON, ODOR IS NOW ADDED TO NATURAL GAS TO HELP DETECT LEAKS.

A GENERATION DIED IN NEW LONDON 77 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Irvin M. May, Jr., "NEW LONDON SCHOOL EXPLOSION," *Handbook of Texas Online*
(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/yqn01>), accessed March 06, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.
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